

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, 22-24, 26-34 are pending in the application with claims 1, 5, 7, and 27 being independent claims. Claim 34 is new. No new subject matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1-8, 22-24, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-8, 22-24, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0047688 to Faris et al. (hereafter "the Faris publication"). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the foregoing amendments and withdraw all outstanding rejections in view of the following remarks.

Interview Summary

On behalf of the Applicant, the undersigned wishes to express appreciation to Examiner Cameron for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on August 7, 2006. During the interview, the disclosure of the Faris publication was discussed in light of the currently pending claims.

The Claims Comply with the Written Description Requirement

Claims 1-8, 22-24, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that mirror 422 does not appear in any of the figures. Applicant encloses herewith the replacement drawing sheet of FIG. 12 to change a reference numeral to properly identify mirror 422. Applicant has amended the Detailed Description to reflect this change to FIG. 12. No new matter is added by this amendment. Applicant requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Claims are Allowable Over the Faris Publication

Claims 1-8, 22-24, and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Faris publication. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interview, the Faris publication fails to disclose or suggest that the droplet(s) is dispensed on a flight path as amended in independent claims 1, 5, 7, and 27. For at least this reason, independent claims 1, 5, 7, and 27 are allowable over the Faris publication. Based at least on their dependence upon their respective independent claims, dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8, 22-24, 26, and 28-34 are also allowable.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding rejections and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of the Amendments to the claims and Detailed Description are respectfully requested.


The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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